

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01
NSC-05 SS-15 OES-07 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-11
/143 W

-----097720 300150Z /62

P 300142Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2357
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02741

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: TSPA, UNGA
SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: SOVIET POSITION ON
NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES

1. AT CANADIAN BEHEST, US REP HELMAN REINFORCED WITH
SOVIET REP KOLOSOV:

--THE NEED FOR PRECISION IN THE MANDATE OF THE EXPERT
GROUP WHICH WILL MEET UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE TO DISCUSS
NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES. IN THE ABSENCE OF PRECISION,
THE EXPERTS ARE LIKELY TO SPEND MUCH OF THEIR TIME
DECIDING WHAT IT IS THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO DISCUSS.

-- THE IMPORTANCE OF IDENTIFYING SOME ROLE FOR THE
LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE, SUCH AS THAT OF INVENTORYING
EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LAW BEARING ON NUCLEAR POWER
SOURCES IN OUTER SPACE.

2. HELMAN ALSO NOTED THAT CANADIANS HAVE COME PRETTY
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FAR IN THE SOVIET DIRECTION AND THEY MAY HAVE A HARD
TIME BRINGING WITH THEM SOME OF THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS
IN THE OSC WHO SEEK MORE RAPID ACTION.

3. KOLOSOV RESPONDED THAT HE HAD STRETCHED HIS
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE LIMIT IN GOING AS FAR AS HE HAD.
HE SAID HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE CANADIANS COULD DEFY

THE OSC'S RULE OF CONSENSUS, RAISE THE MATTER IN THE GA, AND OBTAIN A FAVORABLE RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD BE AT THE EXPENSE OF FUTURE SOVIET COOPERATION, WHICH WAS AT PRESENT AVAILABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, HE POINTED OUT:

-- THE REPORT OF THE OSC TO THE GA COULD INCORPORATE BY REFERENCE THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT, AND THUS SUCH ELEMENTS AS SAFETY STANDARDS. THIS WOULD PROVIDE A SUFFICIENTLY PRECISE MANDATE FOR THE EXPERT GROUP.

-- MOREOVER, THE EXPERT GROUP COULD EXTEND ITS MEETINGS. CURRENTLY, THE EXPERTS ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF A THREE WEEK SESSION OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE SESSION. A FOURTH WEEK COULD BE ADDED, OR THE EXPERTS COULD MEET AGAIN FOR A WEEK SOMETIME THEREAFTER.

-- THE SOVIETS DO FORESEE LSC INVOLVEMENT BUT THAT SHOULD ONLY OCCUR AFTER THE EXPERTS BETTER DEFINE THE PROBLEM. PREMATURE LSC INVOLVEMENT COULD ONLY LEAD TO VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS DEMANDING MODIFICATIONS IN EXISTING TREATIES, INCLUDING THE OUTER SPACE TREATY AND THE LIABILITY CONVENTION.

4. KOLOSOV ALSO NOTED THAT IN HIS VIEW THE BEST WAY
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OF DEALING WITH NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IS TO ADD AN ADDITIONAL ANNEX TO THE CHICAGO CONVENTION. KOLOSOV MADE THAT POINT TWICE, SUGGESTING THAT THE SOVIETS ARE DISTINCTLY INCLINED IN THIS DIRECTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, SPACE EXPLORATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780269-1128
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978061/aaaaaaw.tel
Line Count: 99
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93d67c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2128735
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: SOVIET POSITION ON NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES
TAGS: TSPA, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93d67c7b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014